

Message Text

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63
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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1175
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
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AMCONSUL OPORTO
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SUBJ: DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT ADOPTS PARTY PROGRAM AND
STATUTES, ELECTS CENTRAL COMMITTEE

REF: LISBON 4776

SUMMARY: PORTUGUESE DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT (MDP/CDE) HAS COMPLETED LEGAL FORMALITIES TO BECOME POLITICAL PARTY BY ADOPTING PROGRAM AND STATUTES, AS WELL AS ELECTING PARTY LEADERSHIP. LEADERS INCLUDE IDENTIFIABLE COMMUNISTS AND COMMUNIST SYMPATHIZERS, BUT ALSO INCLUDE FIGURES WHOSE POLITICAL LEANINGS ARE EITHER UNKNOWN OR IDENTIFIABLE ONLY AS BEING "PROGRESSIVE." MDP MAY BE SERVING COMMUNIST PARTY'S INTERESTS IN MORE WAYS THAN ONE. END SUMMARY.

1. NATIONAL ENCOUNTER OF MDP/CDE (REFTEL), MEETING IN OPORTO OVER WEEKEND NOV. 30-DEC. 1, RATIFIED STATUTES AND PARTY PROGRAM AND ELECTED 41-MEMBER CENTRAL COMMITTEE. OF 41, AT
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LEAST TWELVE INDIVIDUALS IDENTIFIABLE TO EMBASSY AS EITHER

MEMBERS OR KNOWN SYMPATHIZERS OF PORTUGUESE COMMUNIST PARTY (PCP). OF OTHER 29, SEVERAL ARE IDENTIFIABLE BY INFO IN EMBASSY BIO FILES SIMPLY AS HAVING "PROGRESSIVE" BACKGROUND (SUCH AS PARTICIPATION IN PREVIOUS ELECTIONS AS OPPOSITIONIST CANDIDATES). FIVE OF 41 ARE CIVIL GOVERNORS (AVEIRO, BRAGA, CASTELO BRANCO, COIMBRA, LISBON).

2. MDP MEETING'S FINAL DECLARATION INCLUDED FOLLOWING

NOTEWORTHY POINTS:

- A. PARTY IDENTIFIED ITS GOALS WITH GOALS OF ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT (AFM) IN ACCOMPLISHING DEMOCRATIC RECONSTRUCTION OF COUNTRY:
- B. MDP DENOUNCES DIVISIONS WITHIN RANKS OF DEMOCRATS AND PROCLAIMS ITS WILLINGNESS TO OVERLOOK PAST DIFFERENCES AND WELCOME WORKING CONTACTS WITH ALL OTHER TRULY DEMOCRATIC FORCES:
- C. ALL DEMOCRATIC FORCES SHOULD WORK ON URGENT MATTERS INVOLVING FIGHT AGAINST REACTION AND CRUCIAL BATTLE AGAINST MONOPOLIES.

3. OTHER POINTS MADE BY SPEAKERS AT GATHERING INCLUDE:

- A. DENUNCIATION OF MAPA (AZORES AUTONOMY MOVEMENT), WHOSE MEMBERS ARE LINKED TO AMERICAN AND IMPERIALIST INTERESTS IN THE ISLANDS.
- B. MDP FIGHTING WITH AFM AGAINST COMINATION BY MONOPOLIES, FACTIONALIZATION OF THE LABOR MOVEMENT, ALARMIST RUMORS AND "INCONSEQUENTIAL LEFTISM."
- C. NEITHER STABILITY NOR DEMOCRACY IS POSSIBLE SO LONG AS ECONOMIC POWER RESTS IN HANDS OF MONOPOLISTS, WHICH PROVIDE NATURAL FOUNDATIONS FOR FASCISM;
- D. IT IS THE MONOPOLISTS AND BIG ECONOMIC GROUPINGS WHO ARE PROMOTING POLITICAL SUBVERSION IN PORTUGAL, AS CAN BE SEEN BY EVENTS OF SEPT. 28.

4. COMMENT: AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED (REFTEL), MDP SERVES PCP'S PURPOSES IN AT LEAST ONE MAJOR RESPECT, THAT OF GARNERING LEFT-OF-CENTER VOTES FROM PERSONS WHO WOULD NOT VOTE FOR THE PCP OUTRIGHT BUT WHO COULD BE WOOED AWAY FROM SOCIALISTS (PS) AND PARTIDO POPULAR DEMOCRATICO (PPD). ON BASIS ITS RECENT ACTIONS, WE JUDGE THAT MDP MAY BE SERVING TWO OTHER PCP GOALS AS WELL: TO ATTACK FRONTALLY IN AREAS

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WHERE, FOR ITS OWN REASONS, PCP PREFERS TO BE CIRCUMSPECT (MDP HAS ATTACKED AMERICAN PRESENCE IN AZORES AND CALLED FOR BASE RENEWAL AGREEMENT TO BE LIMITED TO MORE THAN ONE YEAR), AND TO POSITION ITSELF ON SOME MATTERS (ATTACKS ON INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC FORCES) TO PCP'S LEFT, THEREBY ENDANCING PCP'S CULTIVATED IMAGE OF BEING A "RESPONSIBLE" PARTY. MDP APPEARS TO BE PURSUING POLICY OF ASSOCIATING ITSELF AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE IMAGE-WISE WITH AFM, IN SPITE OF

AFM'S RECENT OFFICIAL PRONOUNCEMENT DISASSOCIATING ITSELF FROM PARTISAN POLITICS, CLAIMING IT HAS JOINT GOALS WITH AFM EVEN IN AREAS WHERE AFM HAS NOT TAKEN A POSITION. (AFM HAS DENOUNCED ALARMIST RUMORS, BUT ITS ATTITUDE TOWARD FOREIGN INVESTMENT IS NOT OPENLY HOSTILE AND IT CERTAINLY HAS NOT TAKEN POSITION ON QUESTION OF "UNITARY" OR "PLURALISTIC" NATIONAL LABOR ORGANIZATION).

5. WHILE NONE OF 41 MEMBERS OF CENTRAL COMMITTEE HAS BEEN FORMALLY SINGLED OUT FOR "MORE EQUAL" STATUS, OUR BEST GUESS IS THAT EFFECTIVE CONTROL WILL CONTINUE TO REST IN HANDS OF PREVIOUS LEADERS, ESPECIALLY PEREIRA DE MOURA AND JOSE MANUEL TENGARRINHA.

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